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FACTSHEET

ANIMAL SCIENCE

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Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

MANAGING ON-FARM MORTALITIES

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Every livestock producer is responsible for disposing of all livestock mortalities in an environmentally safe and timely manner.

ONTARIO DEAD ANIMAL DISPOSAL ACT (ODADA)

In Ontario all dead cattle, swine, sheep, goats, and horses must be disposed of within 48 hours after death, in one of three approved methods:

1. contacting a provincially licensed collector for pickup
2. composting under 60 cm (2 ft) of organic substrate, such as straw or sawdust
3. burying under 60 cm (2 ft) of soil and away from all waterways.

The ODADA does not require a licensed collector to pick up mortalities. Producers are responsible for using the composting or burial methods of disposal if collection services are unavailable. For a listing of Ontario livestock mortality collection service providers visit: *www.gov.on.ca/OMAFRA/english/livestock/deadstock/info_managingmorts.htm.*

PRODUCER TRANSPORTED MORTALITIES

Since the spring of 2000, a pilot project allows farmers living east of Hwy 400 to transport their livestock mortalities to provincially licensed collectors by following these guidelines.

- Mortalities must be covered and transported in a leak-proof vehicle.
- Farmers may transport only their own mortalities.
- Mortalities must be identified with the owner's name, address and telephone number.
- There is a limited number and type of species farmers may transport in each trip.

PENALTIES

Every person who contravenes the ODADA or the regulations is guilty of an offense. On conviction of a first offense, the offender is liable to a fine of not more than $2,000. For a subsequent offence, the offender is liable to a fine of not more than $5,000 or to imprisonment of not more than six months.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Do's

- Call a collection service once a mortality has been detected.
- Develop a protocol with your collector for pick up, storage, and bio-security.
- If composting, select a site and construct an appropriate container to prevent leaching, or wildlife and pet contact.
- Select burial sites in areas of low environmental risk and away from waterways.
- Learn more about provincial regulations and guidelines regarding disposal.
- Consult your veterinarian if unusual mortalities occur.

Don'ts

- Never allow pets, livestock, vermin or scavengers to consume mortalities.
- Never dispose of livestock mortalities in solid or liquid manure systems. This is not an appropriate composting system.
- Never place mortalities for pick-up in public view or along roadways.
- Never bury animals close to waterways, wells or where water collects.
- Burning or incinerating mortalities is not permitted under the ODADA.
- Producer transportation of mortalities is illegal except in the designated areas.

For more information about dead animal disposal or to report an improperly disposed dead animal, contact: the Agricultural Information Contact Centre: 1 877 424-1300 or visit the OMAFRA Web site: www.gov.on.ca/omafra.

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